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Agenda item 9 (d)
Ministerial segment: ministerial round tables

Summaries of multi-stakeholder round tables

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Ministerial round table A.4, on the theme "Partnerships in financing for development"

Tuesday, 19 March 2002 (afternoon)

1. The draft Monterrey Consensus was welcomed as a historical instrument and a turning point in the global partnership for development.

2. Participants emphasized that partnership is a critical element for poverty eradication and the achievement of the millennium development goals. Several dimensions of partnerships are considered key to people-centred sustainable development. At the national level, partnerships should be based on shared responsibilities and complementarity of efforts and roles of the State, the private sector and civil society. At the global level, developed and developing countries should pursue development as a joined responsibility. Partnerships among countries, development organizations, civil society and business are considered to be essential for achieving greater coherence and accelerating development. Delegates also strongly encouraged public/private partnerships as effective ways to create a favourable climate for socially responsible investment. A number of speakers stressed the important role of the private sector in wealth creation, and called for stronger partnerships between transnational corporations and national entrepreneurs to promote investment and growth.

3. There was strong support for the domestic and international reforms advocated in the draft Monterrey Consensus, including, at the domestic level, solid democratic institutions, respect for human rights, gender equality, good governance, sound macroeconomic policies and an enabling environment for private investment (both domestic and foreign). At the international level, effective progress on trade liberalization along the lines of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, especially enhanced market access for developing countries, substantially increased quantity and quality of official development assistance (ODA), external debt relief, efforts to

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stabilize international financial markets and enhanced capacity-building in developing countries, were seen as crucial.

4. With regard to ODA, the recent initiatives announced by some developed countries to increase their development assistance were welcomed as promising steps in the right direction. At the same time, several participants emphasized the need to increase the effectiveness of ODA through such measures as the untying of aid, improved coordination of donor efforts, increased country ownership and enhanced absorptive capacity of the recipient countries.

5. Rapid and effective implementation of the draft Monterrey Consensus was the focus of many interventions. Building partnerships should be part of the process of staying engaged as a long-term commitment.

6. The special needs of Africa, the least developed countries and the small island developing States were emphasized. Investment in those countries needs to be encouraged, including through the catalysing effect of ODA flows. The importance of the New Partnership for Africa's Development was stressed as a key partnership that should be supported by the international community.

Proposals additional to those contained in the draft Monterrey Consensus

7. Alongside the support for the draft Monterrey Consensus in general terms, the following concrete proposals were put forward:

- Creation of a forum for business entities from North and South under the auspices of the World Bank and the regional development banks;
- Doubling ODA as a first step towards meeting the 0.7 per cent target to achieve the millennium development goals;
- Capacity-building reforms, with a special focus on post-conflict countries;
- Creation of an international task force focusing on global public goods;
- Creation of a permanent consultative forum among developing and developed countries on financial and debt issues;
- Ensuring greater participation of developing countries in decision-making on international economic and financial issues;
- Reducing expenditure on defence and increasing public spending on social sectors, in particular for human resource development;
- Enhanced International Monetary Fund and World Bank support for regional and subregional reserve funds and development banks;
- Additional efforts to move towards sustainable debt levels of developing countries;
- Strengthening the resources of the international financial institutions and the United Nations system and increasing coordination and coherence of actions among them;
- Further consideration of private sector proposals made at the Conference;
- A reassessment of conditionalities;
- Addressing the issue of subsidies, particularly in agriculture;

- New and innovative sources of financing, including a currency transaction tax and tax incentives for private flows;
- Gender mainstreaming at all levels and in all policies;
- Establishment of an entity to issue guarantees for capital markets risk coverage in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Establishment of a global forum on taxation;
- Development of mechanisms for debt arbitration among creditor and debtor countries.